(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Matter has been resolved and production of sleeper has been resumed.

Allocation of unutilized railway land to SCs/STs

†2127. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the availability of barren land (KADIM) along the railway-tracks lying unutilized across the length and breadth of the country; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to allot this land to persons belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railway land along Railway tracks is required and utilized for maintaining and serving existing Railway lines as well as for future Railway operations.

There is no plan for alloting Railway land to any person including those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Dallirajhara-Jagdalpur rail line

†2128. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made after the year 2004 in the construction of rail line from Dallirajhara to Jagdalpur to connect Bastar district of Chhattisgarh with rail link;

(b) whether no-objection certificate has been issued by the Department of Environment for the construction of this line;

(c) the progress made in the direction of providing land by other concerned Departments;

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the construction of Dallirajhara-Jagdalpur rail line; and

(e) by when the construction of this rail line would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Railways and Government of Chhattisgarh, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) on 11.12.2007 to implement the construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur (235 Kms) new broad gauge rail link on cost-sharing basis. The work is planned to be completed in two stages, *viz*., Dalli-Rajhara to Rowghat (95 Kms) in Phase-I and Rowghat to Jagdalpur (140 Kms) in Phase-II. Construction of the first phase, cost of which is to be borne entirely by M/s SAIL, has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for speedy execution. For Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat segment, Final Location Survey (FLS) and tendering for various components of works have been taken up. Land acquisition has also been taken up in Durg and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Kanker districts. In Durg district, private land (11 Kms) and Government land (4 Kms) have been acquired. For this segment, Stage I clearance for acquisition of forestland has been received from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and necessary action has been initiated for obtaining Stage II clearance.

(d) The latest estimated cost of construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat new line is approx. Rs. 700 crore and the estimated cost of Rowghat-Jagdalpur segment as per 2004-05 price level is Rs. 664.31 crore.

(e) Construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat new line is likely to be completed by December, 2013. No target date of completion of Rowghat-Jagdalpur segment has yet been fixed.

Recruitment in RPSF

†2129. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of constables to be recruited in Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the written examination for the post of constables in (RPSF) have been postponed twice, so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by Government for recruitment of constables promptly in RPSF to provide safe rail journey to railway passengers; and

(e) by when the process of recruitment of constables in RPSF would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of vacancies in the rank of constables in RPSF for the purpose of recruitment are worked out by adding the existing vacancies in the rank of constables to the existing vacancies in the ranks of Head Constable, Assistant sub-Inspector, Sub-Inspector (50% of vacancies meant for promottee quota as 50% of posts in the rank of Sub Inspector is filled through Direct recruitment) and Inspectors At present, there are around 600 vacancies of constables in RPSF.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The written examination for the post of constables in RPF/RPSF being conducted by Northern Railway/RPF at No. 9BN/RPSF/ Jagadhari (Haryana) was postponed twice first in May 2008 due to Gujjar agitation and secondly in June 2008 due to heavy rains in Jagadhari and adjoining areas thereby leaving the venue water logged. The written examination has now been conducted on 10.11.2008.

(d) The recruitment to fill up the vacant posts of Constable is taken up from time to time. The recruitment being conducted by the most of zonal /RPFs for the vacancies (worked out earlier upto 31/12/2008) of RPF as well as RPSF has already been finalized and efforts are underway to complete the recruitment through remaining zones at the earliest. RPSF is special wing of RPF and assists RPF in maintenance of smooth rail operation.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.